

CLAIMS:

1. A method of data management on a storage medium (10), the storage medium (10) comprising a variety of blocks (21) in which data can be stored, a first block (22) from said variety of blocks (21) being selected to execute a mutation on, characterized by determining whether the wear level of the first block (22) is acceptable for executing the

5 mutation, and if so, executing the mutation on the first block (22), and otherwise

- choosing from said variety a second block (23) with a lower wear level than the first block (22), and
- copying the data of the second block (23) to the first block (22).

10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the blocks from said variety of blocks (21) have an associated counter for counting the number of mutations in the block concerned, and that, when the value of the counter of the first block (22) is smaller than a limit value, the value of the counter is increased and the mutation is executed, and otherwise a block of which the counter has a lower value than the counter of the first block (22) is chosen as the second block (23).

15 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the lower value is the lowest value of the values of the counters of the blocks from said variety.

20 4. A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the limit value is increased when the majority of the counters of the blocks from said variety exceed the limit value.

25 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the second block (23) is erased after the data of the second block (23) have been copied to the first block (22).

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mutation comprises erasing the first block (22).

7. A system for data management on a storage medium (10), the storage medium (10) comprising a variety of blocks in which data can be stored, the system being arranged for selecting a first block (22) from said variety of blocks (21) to execute a mutation on, characterized by control means (26) for determining whether the wear level of the first block (22) is acceptable for executing the mutation, and if so, executing the mutation on the first block (22), and for otherwise

- 5 • choosing from said variety a second block (23) with a lower wear level than the first block (22), and
- copying the data of the second block (23) to the first block (22).

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8. A system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the blocks from said variety of blocks (21) have an associated counter for counting the number of mutations in the block concerned, and in that the control means (26) are arranged for, when the value of the counter of the first block (22) is smaller than the limit value, increasing the value of the counter and executing the mutation, and for otherwise choosing a block of which the counter has a lower value than the counter of the first block (22) as the second block (23).

15 9. A system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the lower value is the lowest value of the values of the counters of the blocks from said variety.

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10. A system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the control means (26) are arranged for increasing the limit value when the majority of the counters of the blocks from said variety exceed the limit value.

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11. A system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the system is arranged for initially constructing a table in which the value of the counters of the blocks are stated.

30 12. A system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the control means (26) are arranged for erasing the second block (23) after the data from the second block (23) have been copied to the first block (22).

13. A computer program product enabling a programmable device to function as a system as claimed in claim 7.